

Warrior Tales (literature-based)

Ms. J. Gillette 2011

Warrior Tales explores how the idea of the warrior has evolved over time from the earliest examples known in literature up to present conceptions and expectations of today's soldier "warriors." Discussions about chivalry, loyalty, honor, brutality and the place of the warrior as a role model within a cultural context will underlie discussions of all texts.

HONORS OPTION: Students will complete one additional reading and writing assignment per quarter. Honors students' work will be held to higher honors level expectations. Students will make a binding choice for honors or non-honors credit **by September 8, 2011**

Students will be able to:

- Read and understand the significance of warrior traditions across the ages
- Articulate the level to which the storyteller shapes the message
- Apply warrior codes to modern combatants
- Analyze how visual texts communicate attitudes toward warriors and war
- Analyze stories for evidence of civility and brutality and the consequences
- Synthesize multiple perspectives in search for cross-cultural comparison

EVALUATION:

50% PROCESS (Informal work through which student is developing knowledge: reading quizzes, journal entries, rough drafts, thoughtful *contribution toward* discussion as well as *lack of distraction away from* class atmosphere.)

50% PRODUCT (Formal work that ends unit study, primarily synthesis essays. Out-of-class work should reflect thoughtful development, editing, revision.)

Our texts, print as well as supplemental video, include honest portrayals of armed conflict and can, at times, include graphic language and violent images. While portions of 'R' rated films will be shown to the class, I take every measure to excerpt sensitively to assure appropriateness and connection to current reading. Students or parents who have concerns about the content of this course should contact me directly.

I am available in Room 124 before school, after school, and study hall/prep periods (**Red 2, Red 3, White 2**) for extra help or special concerns.

I typically reply to email within the day:

jamie_gillette@fivetowns.net

You can also call outside of classroom hours:

236-7800 ext. 124

class wikispace site

<https://english-gillette.wikispaces.com>

TEXTS may include:

The Iliad – Homer, Lattimore trans.

Beowulf – Burton Raffel trans.

Grendel – John Gardner

Gawain and the Green Knight – W. S. Merwin trans.

Things They Carried – Tim O'Brien

Selected oral histories: *The Good War*,

Everything We Had, *What Was Asked of Us*

Selected video excerpts: *Warriors* series,

300, *Troy*, *Braveheart*, *Platoon*, *Paradise Now*, *Soldiers of Conscience*, etc.

